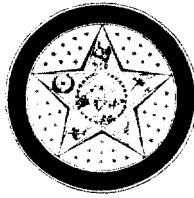


ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

# Oklahoma State Senate

SENATOR ENOCH KELLY HANEY  
CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS



STATE CAPITOL  
2300 N. LINCOLN BLVD.  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-4808

RM 519  
Phone (405) 524-0126, Ext. 547  
Fax (405) 521-5507

RECEIVED

January 17, 2001

JAN 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. Room TW A325  
Washington D.C. 20554

Re: Application by SBC Communications Inc. for Authorization Under Section 271  
of the Communications Act to Provide In-Region Interlata Service in the States of  
Kansas and Oklahoma. Docket No. 00-217

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed please find two copies of my letter to Commissioner Tristani in this  
proceeding providing my support for the SBC application to provide long distance in  
the state of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

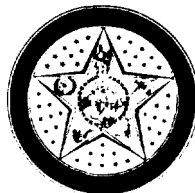
Enoch Kelly Haney  
Oklahoma State Senator

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# Oklahoma State Senate

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SENATOR ENOCH KELLY HANEY  
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JAN 18 2001

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Tristani:

I want to begin by commending you for your efforts to make telecommunications advancements available to all people. Particularly, as a full-blooded Seminole-Creek, I certainly appreciate your work to make sure that no segment of our Native American Community is left behind.

Today, I am writing to encourage your support for an equally important issue, Southwestern Bell's application to provide long-distance service in Oklahoma. As a member of the Oklahoma State Senate's Energy, Environment & Regulatory Affairs Committee, I have eagerly watched the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's (OCC) proceedings during the last three or four years as they examined this issue. And, I have eagerly awaited the day when customers can select Southwestern Bell as their long distance carrier in Oklahoma. As an interested state official, I know first hand that the OCC thoroughly reviewed Southwestern Bell's application. After careful examination, I also know that the OCC unanimously voted to support Bell's application.

In Oklahoma, one will find very few public policy issues upon which everyone can unanimously agree. Yet, when regulators and consumers hear the list of benefits--more competition in the long distance market and lower prices for consumers, just to name a few--that stem from allowing Southwestern Bell to offer long distance in Oklahoma, no other conclusion can be reached.

Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
January 17, 2001  
Page Two

I urge you to consider my comments, as well as those of other Native Americans, like Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, and Jim Gray, Publisher of the *Oklahoma Indian Times*, which I am attaching. In making your decision, I hope that you will continue to make telecommunications advances available to all people. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Kelly Haney", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator Enoch Kelly Haney  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

Enclosures



November 7, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
CY-B402  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas,

As a publisher of the largest Native American newspaper in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Indian Times is often the only source of information affecting the Native American Community in the state. When issues come before the editorial department that need coverage, it is more often than not, issues of economics and equity.

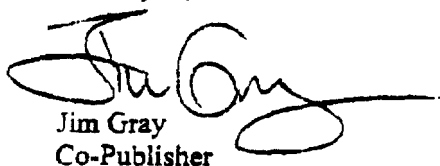
In the recent approval by the OCC for Southwestern Bell to enter the long distance market, consumers should have another choice as to who will be providing long distance services in Oklahoma if the FCC grants their application.

Here are a couple of reasons I believe that Southwestern Bell should be allowed to provide long distance services in Oklahoma. For one, competition for services can lower the price for long distance services, and it could also increase the quality of that service.

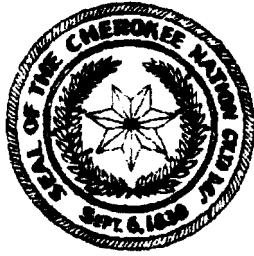
Second, the economics of many Native American families fall below the poverty level throughout the state. The prospect of lower costs, better services will be a tremendous help to hundreds of thousands of Indian families living in some of the most remote and poverty stricken areas of the state.

Finally, as I have testified to the FCC before, Southwestern Bell is a very progressive thinking company with one of the best minority hiring and contracting records in the country. If any companies are to prosper in this "New Economy" let it be companies like this one, so they can continue to be a leader in bridging the digital divide between the economic 'haves' and 'have nots' in our society.

Thank you,



Jim Gray  
Co-Publisher



## CHEROKEE NATION

P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948  
918-456-0671

Chad "Comtassel" Smith  
O'hG1  
Principal Chief

Hastings Shade  
O'W@Sh  
Deputy Principal Chief

November 8, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
CY-B402  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 00-217

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of the Cherokee Nation, I am pleased to write to you in support of Southwestern Bell's application to provide long-distance service in Oklahoma.

As with all matters that are considered by the Federal Communications Commission, I know you will thoroughly review all the evidence in this filing. I commend you for considering this application and for undertaking this proceeding.

My responsibility in communicating with you today is to provide you with the input of the Cherokee Nation and potentially other Native Americans throughout Oklahoma.

In supporting Southwestern Bell's application, I want to underscore the benefits that consumers will realize once the company is approved to provide long distance in Oklahoma. Currently, the three major long distance companies control about 80 percent of the long distance market. Consumers need another choice. If approved, I know that Oklahoma consumers can expect Southwestern Bell to offer long distance packages similar to what the company currently offers in Texas. Likewise, I have read that more than 1 million customers have signed up for similar packages in Texas in the first three months. I urge you to give Oklahomans the same choice and the same opportunity.

I have also seen in the press that the major long distance companies have responded to Southwestern Bell's entry by lowering their rates by up to 50 percent. Thus, as a result of your actions, Texans have more choices and lower rates than ever before. I urge you to give Oklahomans the same choice and the same opportunity.

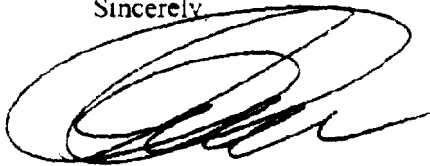
page 2

CC Docket No. 00-217

Native Americans in Oklahoma will be best served by cost-effective calling long distance plans and by the ability to select one telecommunications provider for all their needs.

I respectfully ask you to listen to the unanimous endorsement of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and to bring customer benefits of true long distance competition home to Native Americans in Oklahoma.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chad Smith", written over a large, loopy, oval-shaped flourish.

Chad Smith  
Principal Chief